

# NEWS

## *From the County of San Bernardino* **Josie Gonzales Fifth District**

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/bosd5>

JUNE 25, 2007



**JGFDS-PR-187 NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
BOB PAGE AT (909) 387-4565**

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

#### **COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND B.A.S.I.A. PARTNER TO DO HIV TESTING**

**SAN BERNARDINO** – Through a partnership of a local non-profit, a hometown business, the County of San Bernardino and others, free HIV rapid testing and counseling will be offered to residents this week in recognition of National HIV Testing Day.

Local non-profit group Brothers and Sisters in Action (B.A.S.I.A.) enlisted the help of San Bernardino County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, the County Department of Public Health, Stater Bros., and other organizations to offer free testing and counseling on June 27 and 28.

Supervisor Josie Gonzales presented a countywide resolution at the June 19 Board meeting recognizing June 27, 2007 as National HIV Testing Day. The Board then approved her allocation of \$5,000 to assist B.A.S.I.A. with its HIV and AIDS education, testing and outreach.

“Cases of HIV and AIDS are on the rise in our county, particularly in our minority communities,” said Supervisor Gonzales. “We must educate our residents, especially our women and children of color, and encourage testing so that we can lessen the spread of this disease.”

The Department of Public Health’s mobile testing unit will provide HIV antibody testing and counseling at two Stater Bros. Markets in San Bernardino. Results will be given within 45 minutes.

- **Wednesday, June 27** at the Stater Bros. at 444 East Base Line Street, San Bernardino from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, June 28** at the Stater Bros. at 648 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, San Bernardino from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A third location in the Rialto area will be scheduled in July.

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“I appreciate the ongoing support I have received from Supervisor Gonzales and the Public Health Department staff,” said Patricia Green-Lee, CEO and founder of B.A.S.I.A. “I also thank Stater Bros. for being part of this important outreach.”

“Thousands of people in our county are infected with HIV and don’t know it. The sooner they get tested and receive counseling, we can educate them so they can manage their disease and reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS in our communities, especially in our African American community,” said Green-Lee.

B.A.S.I.A. also will use the funds Supervisor Gonzales provided to implement Sisters Informing Sisters About Topics on AIDS. This culturally sensitive training provides African-American women with effective tools they can use to help reduce their exposure to HIV. Approximately 300 women will go through the training, which is scheduled to begin in August.

For more information on B.A.S.I.A. and the upcoming training call (909) 820-0446.

*The 5th District includes the unincorporated areas of Bloomington, Muscoy and Arrowhead Farms, the city of Rialto, major portions of the cities of Colton and San Bernardino, and a segment of the city of Fontana.*

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